

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 043842

17

ORIGIN ARA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN/G:DHCLARE:BT

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

----- 129436

R 052054Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043842

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 1261 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USCINCSO
CINCLANT 05 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1261

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED-
ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 15

1. AT THE DAWN OF THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING THE MARCH 3
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THE SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED.
BOTH GENERAL LAUGERUD, WHO IS SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT
BACKED CONSERVATIVE MLN-PID COALITION AND GENERAL RIOS
MONTT, WHO IS BACKED BY THE LEFT-OF-CENTER CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC LED UNITED OPPOSITION FRONT, ARE CLAIMING
VICTORY, CENTER-OF-THE ROAD PR CANDIDATE COL. PAIZ
NOVALES IS OUT OF THE RUNNING. THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH
HAS BEEN UNBELIEVABLY SLOW IN RELEASING ELECTION
STATISTICS, IS ONCE AGAIN DRIBBLING THEM OUT IN A MANNER
WHICH SHOWS LAUGERUD AHEAD, AND WHICH SMACKS OF GROSS
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PAGE 02 STATE 043842

FRAUD.

2. IT NOW APPEARS TO US THAT RIOS MONTT WON THE ELECTION BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE BACKING OF PRESIDENT ARANA, INTENDS TO STEAL IT BY FALSIFYING THE RETURNS. WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUCCEED IN ITS PLAN WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARMY, WHICH IN TURN WILL TAKE ITS CUE FROM THE DEGREE OF POPULAR DISCONTENT MANIFESTED OVER THE PROJECTED RIPOFF. WE BELIEVE THE ARMY WILL CONTROL ANY MINOR DISTURBANCES, BUT WILL BACK OFF FROM A MAJOR CONFRONTATION IF IT SHOULD ARISE. WE ALSO ESTIMATE THAT RIOS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVOKE A MAJOR CONFRONTATION. NEVERTHELESS, OUR PROGNOSTICATION FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IS FOR CONFUSION AND A CERTAIN DEGREE OF INSTABILITY.
MELOY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, ELECTION FRAUD
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE043842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN/G:DHCLARE:BT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740366/aaaacjqn.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED- ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 15
TAGS: PINT, GT, (LAUGERUD), (MONTT), (PAIZ)
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005